

KNIGHTS OF MALTA
• MANUAL •

MANUAL

FOR

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
BURIAL SERVICE
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES
SERVICES FOR HOLY DAYS
AND
DEDICATION OF TEMPLES

ISSUED BY THE
SUPREME GRAND COMMANDERY
CONTINENT OF AMERICA
OF THE
ANCIENT AND ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER
KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Elias J. Sterner, P. S. C., Supreme Recorder
237 East King Street
Lancaster, Pa.

1952

INSTALLATION DIAGRAM

A
 B
 C
 D
 G F E X H K L
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 M
 N
 P
 R
 TTT
 TT
 T

(4) (5)
 (3) (2)
 S.K.C. or D.G.C.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Sir Kt. Com. | E. Senior Warden. |
| B. Generalissimo. | H. Junior Warden. |
| C. Captain-General. | F. Standard Bearer. |
| D. Prelate. | K. Sword Bearer. |
| O. Recorder. | G. First Guard. |
| N. Asst. Recorder. | L. Second Guard. |
| M. Treasurer. | P. Warder. |
| R. Sentinel. | X. Altar. |
| (2) Prelate's Outfit. | (3) Standard. |
| (4) Position of G.C.G. | (5) Position of G.P. |
| T. Altar for Officers' Jewels. | |

INSTALLATION

Note.—The Officers of a Subordinate Commandery shall be installed by the Supreme Commander, Grand Commander, Deputy Supreme Commander or Deputy Grand Commander; but in case of a vacancy occurring at any time during the term, a Past Commander may install.

Note.—The Supreme or Grand Commander shall be assisted by the Supreme or Grand Captain-General and the Supreme or Grand Prelate; and when necessary, or at the institution of a Commandery, by the Supreme or Grand Recorder and other Supreme or Grand Officers; but in their absence he may appoint Past Commanders to fill these offices pro tem.

(The Commandery being in session in the order of New Business, the Grand Officers will meet in the Preparation Room, and when ready to enter, the Installing Officer will instruct the Sentinel to give the usual alarm at the inner door.)

For public installation the Commandery shall be closed before the room is thrown open to the public, the Altar, Bible and crossed swords may remain.

Warder.—Sir Knight Commander, there is an alarm from the Sentinel.

Sir Knight Com.—Ascertain the cause.

Warder.—Sir Knight Commander, a herald is in waiting from the Supreme (or Grand) Commander.

Sir Knight Com.—Admit him.

(The Herald then enters the Council Chamber in the regular manner, advances to the Altar, draws his sword and salutes the Sir Knight Commander. He then returns his sword to its scabbard, and, taking the bugle, faces the Prelate, and gives ONE loud blast; then facing the Generalissimo, he gives TWO blasts; then facing the Captain-General, he gives THREE blasts; and facing the Sir Knight Commander, he gives FOUR blasts, and announces as follows:—)

Herald.—Hear ye, Sir Knights (and if the installation be public, he will also add Ladies and Friends), the Supreme (or Grand) Commander and Staff are in the Preparation Room, and waiting to be received by this Commandery.

Sir Knight Com.—Sir Herald, we will receive the Supreme (or Grand) Commander and other Officers of the Supreme (or Grand) Commandery with the honors due their exalted stations.

(The Herald will then return to the Preparation Room and report to the Supreme (or Grand) Commander.)

Sir Knight Com.—Sir Knights Senior and Junior Wardens, you will take proper positions at the Altar, and Sir Knight Captain-General, you will retire and introduce our illustrious companions.

(The Senior and Junior Wardens then take up positions as directed, their swords crossed so as to

form an Arch of Steel, and the two Guards will assume a like position at the inner door. The Captain-General retires, and when all is in readiness the Sentinel gives the usual raps (if public alarm) at the inner door, which will be opened by the Warder, and the Supreme (or Grand) Officers enter, the Supreme (or Grand) Commander first, with the Captain-General in the rear. As they enter the Council Chamber music will be played, and the Commandery is brought to its feet, when the Captain-General will command:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Draw, Swords. Present, Swords.

(The Officers advance to the Altar and stand under the Arch of Steel, and the Captain-General, stepping a few paces to the right, salutes, and says:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knight Commander, it gives me pleasure to introduce the Supreme (or Grand) Commander and staff.

Sir Knight Com.—Supreme (or Grand) Commander, and Officers of the Supreme (or Grand) Commandery, on behalf of Commandery, No. of the Ancient and Illustrious Order Knights of Malta, I bid you a hearty, cordial and chivalric welcome to our Council Chamber, and would respectfully request you to take charge of our solemn ceremonies; and to you Supreme (or Grand) Commander, I hereby vacate this station as Sir Knight Commander, honored in the past by the occupancy of the immortal

Sandilands, and respectfully request you to be installed therein.

(The Officers then advance in front of the station of the Sir Knight Commander, when the Captain-General commands:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Carry, Swords. Return, Swords.

(The Supreme (or Grand) Commander then steps to the side of the Sir Knight Commander, who hands him the gavel, saying:—)

Sir Knight Com.—I hand you the gavel of authority, which in every Commandery of our Order is more potent in its decisions than the arbitrament of the sword. Receive it as the homage we pay to the superior authority of the body you represent; and also to yourself, as the honored occupant of such an exalted station. Stand steady, Sir Knights, and assist me to confer the Grand Honors upon Sir

Supreme (or Grand) Commander (giving title of Installing Officer in full).

(The Grand Honors are then given in the usual manner, and the Supreme (or Grand) Commander seats the Commandery with one rap of the gavel. The Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General and the Supreme (or Grand) Prelate take seats at the right and left in front, as per diagram on page 3. The Sir Knight Commander will take a seat at the left of the Installing Officer, and a seat should

be reserved at his right. The Installing Officer will then take charge, inspect the semi-annual returns, and ask to be shown receipt for per capita tax for the term just ended.)

Installing Officer.—Sir Knight Commander and Companions, we have assembled for the purpose of installing the officers of your Commandery for the ensuing term. Sir Knight Commander have the officers been elected in compliance with the constitution and laws of our Order, and are they properly bonded?

(The Sir Knight Commander will reply to the inquiry of the Installing Officer, and if it should be found that the officers have been illegally elected, or that any of the offices are vacant, the Installing Officer will at once order such new election as may be necessary. When all is in readiness the Installing Officer will say:—)

Installing Officer.—Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General. Proceed with the duties of your office, and see that the Council Chamber is duly prepared for the installation ceremony.

(The Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General will then collect the Officers' Jewels and place them on the Triangular altar in front of the Sir Knight Commander's station, see that the Altar is in position and that seats for the officers-elect are properly arranged, as per diagram on page 3, and report to the Installing Officer as follows:—)

Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen. — Supreme (or

Grand) Commander, the Council Chamber is in proper array and the companions await your pleasure.

Installing Officer.—Sir Knight Recorder, you will please favor me with the names of those valiant Sir Knights upon whom the choice has fallen of governing this Commandery by the free suffrages of their Sir Knight Companions. As the officers' names are called, they will step forward and take seats assigned them by the Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General.

(The Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General will see that the officers-elect are properly seated according to the diagram on page 3. When all is in readiness he returns to his station, draws his sword, salutes the Installing Officer, and says:—)

Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen. — Supreme (or
Grand) Commander, the Commandery is ready.

Installing Officer.—Sir Knight Companions of Commandery, No., do you still approve of these companions as your office-bearers for the ensuing term?

Response.—We do.

Installing Officer.—Let us therefore pay attention while the Grand Prelate invokes the Divine blessing upon the proceedings of the present convocation. (* * *)

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.**—Dearly beloved Sir Knights, let every soul be subject to the higher powers, for there is no power but from God, and the powers which be are ordained of God.

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.**—Sir Knights, Attention! Draw, Swords. Uncover. To your devotions.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.**—Let us pray.

PRAYER.

Almighty Ruler of the Universe, by whom order was called forth out of chaos, be pleased, out of Thine infinite goodness, to look graciously upon and bless these Thy servants who are about to be invested with authority to rule over and govern this Christian Institution. Incline their hearts to follow after Thee: endue them with wisdom and fortitude, with constancy and courage to maintain the principles of Thy Holy Religion; and grant that, having borne the Cross worthily, they may obtain the eternal crown; through the merits of our Divine and Ascended Saviour.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our tres-

passes, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever.

Response.—Amen, Amen, Amen.

(Ode, Blest Be the Tie That Binds.)

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.**—Sir Knights, Attention. Carry, Swords. Return, Swords.

Installing Officer.—*

(The Installing Officer will then take position at the Altar on which the Officers' Jewels have previously been placed, and the Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General will present the Sentinel-elect at the opposite side for installation, saying:—)

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.** — Supreme (or Grand) Commander, I have the honor of presenting to you Sir Knight Companion who has been selected to the office of of this Commandery. I find him to be well skilled in our sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.

Installing Officer.—Sir Knight Companion, are you ready to subscribe to the test of office?

(Receiving an affirmative answer, the Installing

Officer will draw his sword, and, holding it out horizontally, will lay the blade, edgewise, upon the left shoulder of the officer-elect, who will place his right hand upon the same, and his left hand upon his left breast, and in this position repeat the following:—)

TEST OF OFFICE.

I,, do solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Knight of Malta, that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, faithfully discharge the various duties incumbent upon the office to which I have been selected; that I will support and maintain the Laws of this Commandery, and the Laws and Constitution of the Supreme or Grand Commandery under whose immediate authority I act. So help me God.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Sentinel of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Sword therein. Your post is that of honor as well as danger; you will, therefore, be vigilant. You will now be conducted to your station, which is in the ante-room, where you will guard the door of entrance.

(Each of the remaining officers-elect, except the Sir Knight Commander, is then presented in turn to the Installing Officer by the Supreme (or Grand) Captain-General, and is duly qualified by taking

the vow of office in the same form and manner as above, and having the charge delivered to him.)

CHARGE TO THE WARDER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Warder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a trumpet and Crossed Swords therein. Your station is at the inner door. Your duty is to announce the approach of all companions and candidates; to assist the Sentinel, and see that the Council Chamber is duly guarded. You will also report all petitions from visitors and strangers, and communicate the orders of your superior officers; and I charge you to be punctual in your attendance at our meetings, and indefatigable in the discharge of your important duties; for although yours is one of the minor offices of the Commandery, it is by no means the least in importance. You will now enter upon the discharge of your duties.

CHARGE TO THE TWO GUARDS.

SIR KNIGHTS—You have been selected as the Guards of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Battle Axe therein. Your stations are at the right and left of the door of entrance to the Council Chamber. It will be your duty to assist at the initiation of candidates, and perform such

other duties as may appertain to your office. You will now be conducted to your respective stations.

CHARGE TO THE STANDARD BEARER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Standard Bearer of this Commandery, and I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Plumb surmounted by a Banner. Your station is on the left of the Prelate. Your duty is to display, support, and protect the Standard of our Order, which I now, with pleasure, confide to your valor. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger, and when unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will never relinquish it to an enemy but with your life. You will also pass the ballot for all applications for membership or advancement. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE SWORD BEARER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Sword Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Triangle and Crossed Swords. Your station is on the right of the Prelate. You will have charge of the "Dubbing Sword" of the Commandery. Your duty is to assist the Standard Bearer, if necessary, in passing the ballot for all candidates, and also in the protection of the Banner of the Order, and

with a heart lively devoted to the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity, with the Mystic Sword, that is endowed with Justice and Fortitude, and tempered by Mercy, in your hand, you may cast your eyes upon the Standard, and remember that "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES" is an expressive motto of our Order, and consoling to the heart of every true believer. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is an Eagle and Flaming Sword. It is to remind you to perform your various duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is on the left of the Captain-General. You are to assist the Senior Warden in the discharge of the various duties appertaining to his office. You are especially to see that candidates for initiation and advancement are properly prepared. You will now be conducted to your post and enter upon the discharge of your duties.

CHARGE TO THE SENIOR WARDEN.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office,

which is a Hollow Square and Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the Children of Israel marched in a hollow square, in their journey through the wilderness, in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is on the right of the Captain-General. Your duty is to carry out all the instructions that you may receive from the Captain-General; to prepare the Commandery room for the dispatch of business, and to assist at the introduction, initiation, and advancement of candidates; to collect the necessary passwords, etc., before the opening or transferring of the Commandery, the result of which you will report to the Captain-General; and to perform such other duties as may be required of you. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE ASSISTANT RECORDER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Assistant Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a single Pen. Your station is at the right of the Recorder. Your duty is to assist the Recorder, and perform such other duties

as the By-Laws may direct. In the absence of the Recorder you will perform all the duties appertaining to his office. Your position is one of great importance, and I trust that you will be found deserving of the confidence which the Commandery has placed in you, and that you will discharge whatever duties may be assigned you with care and promptitude. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is Crossed Keys. Your station is on the left of the Commander. The funds of the Commandery are to be placed in your care, and you must be prepared to render a just and true account of the same when requested by proper authority. The qualities which should recommend a treasurer are—accuracy and fidelity; accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements; fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a true account of the same whenever called for. I presume that your love and attachment to our Order, and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than precious

ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is Crossed Pens. Your station is on the right of the Commander. Your duties are very numerous and of the highest importance. You will keep, in suitable books provided for that purpose, a correct list of the members of the Commandery, their ages, occupations, residences, etc., together with the date of initiation and advancement to each degree. Collect all moneys due the Commandery and pay the same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same, and generally to perform such duties as this Commandery may require of you. The requirements of your office are promptitude in issuing the notifications and orders of your superior officers; punctuality in attending the convocations of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through your hands, and fidelity in paying the same over into the hands of the Treasurer. The possession of these good qualities,

I presume, has designated you as a suitable candidate for this important office, and I trust that you will discharge its duties satisfactorily to the Commandery, and honorably to yourself. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE PRELATE.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected to fill the high position of Prelate of this Commandery. Your station is on the right of the Council Chamber, and is one of the four principal chairs of the Commandery. Your duty is to officiate at the Altar, and to offer up prayers to the Throne of Grace. I exhort you, that with love and charity you will exercise works of mercy, so that the servants of God and of our Order, inflamed by the spirit of true chivalry, may perform the double duty of hospitality and warfare in order to defend the Protestant Religion against all its enemies. I now present you with this Robe of Penitence, representing the hard and cruel life passed by our patron, St. John the Baptist. It also represents his habit, which was of camel's-hair, signifying that we must quit the trammels of sin, and follow the path of virtue. I also present you with this Mantle, which will call to your remembrance the bitter death and passion of our crucified Lord and Master. These strings, with which it is tied, represent the cords with which our

Saviour was bound; and this Cross, that on which He suffered an ignominious death that all might live. Its white color denotes that all our actions should be pure and innocent; and the eight points signify the eight beatitudes, which contain the promises to all who wear the sign with real fervor. For this reason it is placed on the left side that you may always have it at your heart. I also present you with this Cap. It is the Cap of Dignity, and, when well and worthily worn by a Sir Knight Companion, is considered one of the highest honors. And finally, I present you with this Triple Triangle, which is the badge of your office, and a beautiful emblem of the Eternal Jehovah. It will remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you; and may He who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work; preserve you from falling into error; improve, strengthen, establish, and perfect you, and finally greet you with, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." You will now be escorted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Captain-General of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Level surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock

stimulate to conquer his competitors, or yield himself a victim to the contest, so should you be stimulated to the discharge of every duty. Your station is on the left of the Commandery, and yours is one of the four principal chairs. Your duty, among other things, is to see that the Senior and Junior Wardens make all due preparations for the various meetings of the Commandery; that the Council Chamber is in proper array for the introduction of candidates and the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate all orders issued by the Sir Knight Commander to the Senior and Junior Wardens; you are to assist in Council, and in the absence of your Commander and Generalissimo you will govern the Commandery. You will now be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE GENERALISSIMO.

SIR KNIGHT—You have been selected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the badge of your office, which is a Square, surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. When beholding the Lamb, let it stimulate you to have at all times a watchful eye over your own conduct, and an earnest solicitude for the prosperity of the kingdom of the blest Emmanuel, the spotless Lamb of God, who was slain from the foundation of the world. The Square is to remind you that principles of brotherly love and friendship

should forever govern the members of this Order. Your station, Sir Knight, is opposite to your Commander, and is the second in rank of the four principal chairs of the Commandery. Your duty is to assist your Commander in his various duties, and in his absence to preside over the Commandery. I charge you to be faithful to the Sir Knights with whom you are associated, and put them often in remembrance of those things which tend to their everlasting peace. You will now be conducted to your station.

(The Sir Knight Commander-elect is then presented to the Installing Officer, at the Altar, who, after administering the vow of office, will address him as follows:—)

SIR KNIGHT COMPANION—Having been selected to the important and honorable station of Sir Knight Commander of this Commandery, it is with pleasure that I enter upon this duty of installing you in your office, as the head of an institution founded upon the Christian Religion, and the practice of Christian virtues. You will sensibly realize the great responsibility of the relation in which you now stand to your companions, and I trust that you will so conduct the important interests about to be committed to your hands as to reflect honor upon yourself and credit on the Commandery. It now, Sir Knight, becomes my duty to propose certain questions to you, relative to your office, to

all of which I must request unequivocal answers:—

1. Do you solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Knight, that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your companions who have attained to this magnanimous Order of Knighthood?
2. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened except there be present at least SEVEN Sir Knights of your Commandery, unless dispensation so to do shall have been obtained from the Grand Commander, who alone can grant that privilege?
3. That you will not confer the higher Degrees of the Order upon any one who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition, or who has not made some proficiency in the work of the foregoing Degrees?
4. That you will promote the general good-will of our Order, and on all occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, and particularly from Supreme or Grand Officers?
5. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and conduct yourself in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions?
6. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Commandery that does not work under a constitutional Warrant?
7. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery who has not been knighted in a Commandery legally constituted?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of Supreme and Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several

Lectures and Charges, and will resign the Chair to them severally, when they may visit your Commandery, if they so desire?

9. That you will preserve the unity of the Ancient and Illustrious Order of Knights of Malta on this Continent; that you will not conspire yourself, nor enter into any plot or conspiracy, against the Supreme Grand Commandery of the Continent of America; neither will you seek, either directly or indirectly, by any means whatsoever, to limit the authority on this Continent of the said Supreme Grand Commandery?
10. Do you further bind yourself, that, if in your power, should the Commandery over which you are now installed Sir Knight Commander cease working, you will return to the Supreme or Grand Recorder the Charter, Rituals, Documents, etc., in your possession, together with a correct list of the members at the time the Commandery ceased working?
11. That you will see that your successor in office is bound to the observance of the same rules to which you have assented?

Installing Officer.—Do you submit to all these rules, and promise to observe and practice them faithfully?

Answer.—I do.

CHARGE TO THE SIR KNIGHT COMMANDER.

SIR KNIGHT—You will now permit me to invest you with the badge of your office; it is a Cross surmounted by Rays of Light, and is a beautiful and appropriate emblem of the sublime principles of this magnanimous and

Christian Order of Knighthood. The Cross will remind you of Him who offered up His life as a propitiation for the sins of the world; and the refulgent rays that emanate from it, of those Divine teachings and sublime precepts which He has left to guide and direct us in the path of true holiness.

I now place in your charge the Charter of this Commandery, which you are to receive as a sacred deposit, and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than that expressed in it, and safely transmit it to your successor in office.

I also commit to your hands the Holy Bible—that great light in every degree of Knighthood—together with the Crossed Swords. The doctrines contained in this sacred volume create in us a belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only true and living God, the Creator and Judge of all things, in heaven and on earth; they also confirm us in a belief in the dispensation of His providence.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible are to remind us that we should be “strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might;” that we should “put on the whole armor of God,” to be able to wrestle successfully against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

I also present you with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of your Commandery, together with those of the Supreme and Grand Commandery, which you will frequently consult yourself, and cause them to be read for the information of your Commandery, that all, being informed of their duty, may have no excuse to offer for the neglect of it.

And now, Sir Knight Commander
(taking him by the right hand and walking toward the Sir Knight Commander's station)
permit me to induct you into the chair of your Commandery, and, in behalf of the Sir Knights here assembled, to offer you my most sincere congratulations on your accession to the high and honorable station you now fill. It will henceforth be your special duty to preserve inviolate the Laws and Constitutions of the Order; to dispense justice, reward merit, encourage truth, and diffuse the sublime principles of universal benevolence. And finally, Sir Knight, may the bright examples of the illustrious heroes of former ages, whose matchless valor has shed undying lustre over the name of Knight of St. John, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty.
(* * *)

Sir Knights, behold your Commander.
Assist me in conferring the Grand Honors.

(The Grand Honors are now given, after which the Installation Ode may be sung.)

Installing Officer.—Sir Knight Commander, before committing to your charge the Rituals of the Order, it becomes my duty to still further obligate you as follows.—

(The Sir Knight Commander will then take the Bible in his right hand, place his left hand upon his left breast, and repeat after the Installing Officer the following:—)

OBLIGATION.

I,, in the presence of the companions of this Commandery, over which I have been called to preside, do solemnly promise, declare and swear, that I will keep the Rituals now to be placed in my charge under my personal supervision; that I will not allow them to be used by any companion, except in the Council Chamber, or in a private apartment, by such companions as are in good standing in the Order. That I will not myself take, nor will I allow any other person to take, a transcript of the same, or any part of them, so that it may be legible to any person or persons whatsoever.

I also promise that at the end of my term of office, or whenever I cease to be the Sir Knight Commander of this Commandery, I will surrender the said Rituals to the Deputy Supreme (or Grand) Commander, or such other officer as may be authorized to receive them.

To all of which I do most solemnly swear, without any hesitation, or self-evasion in me whatever, binding myself under the penalties of all my obligations in this Order. So help me, God, to keep and perform the same.

(*)

(The Installing Officer will now place the Rituals in charge of the newly installed Sir Knight Commander, and also communicate to him the S. A. P. W.)

CHARGE TO THE COMMANDERY.

Sir Knights, you must remember that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support, assistance, and obedience as on the fidelity and wisdom of the Sir Knight Commander. To manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery with that promptitude, integrity, and skill which the Order demands, will require all the talents and perseverance of its officers and members. If any of you are desirous that your equals and inferiors should conduct themselves toward you with deference and respect, you will be sure to let no opportunity pass without furnishing them an example in your own conduct toward your superiors. The officers will recollect that those moral and religious duties and precepts which they from time to time so forcibly impress upon the minds of others should by no means be neglected by themselves, as the most effectual

way to insure success is to let precept and example go hand in hand. I would, therefore, exhort you, one and all, to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South, and see that the entering avenues are strictly guarded, and that you suffer no one to walk among you disorderly without admonition and reproof. While such is the conduct of the officers and members, you may rest assured that this valiant and magnanimous Order will forever flourish like a green bay tree.

And now, my worthy Sir Knights, let me address you in the language of David to his beloved city—"Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

BURIAL SERVICE

NOTICE.

[No companion can be interred with the formalities of the Order unless he has been advanced to the second or Black Degree. The companions attending should be clothed in black, have their sword-hilts and sword-arms dressed in mourning, wear black gloves, and a sprig of evergreen on the left breast. The Sir Knight Commander will preside at the services and lead in the ceremonies, being assisted by the Prelate, according to the Manual.]

If Grand Officers be present they will be allotted a position in the procession according to their rank, and if the Supreme or Grand Prelate be present, he should be invited to take the place of the Prelate.]

(The companions will assemble at the hour appointed, and the Commandery will be opened in due and ancient form in the Black Degree. The Sir Knight Commander will request the Recorder to read the obituary notice of the deceased companion.)

FORM OF OBITUARY NOTICE.

Died at on the
day of A. D. 19..... A. O., Sir Knight
Companion, of
..... Commandery, No.
aged years, months,
and days. May he rest in peace.

(The Sir Knight Commander will then bring the Commandery to its feet, and the Prelate will read as follows:—)

Prelate.—“And Joseph said unto his brethren: I die; and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying: God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old, and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of silver, and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”

(That portion of the Lecture of the Black Degree which is appropriate to the occasion will then be repeated by two companions, to be appointed by the Sir Knight Commander, after which the Sir Knight Commander, or some other companion, will deliver a short exhortation upon the duties of the hour. The Sir Knight Commander will then command:—)

Sir Knight Com.—Sir Knight Warder, you will sound the trumpet. Sir Knight Captain-General, you will form the line.

(At the sound of the trumpet by the Warder the companions will fall into line, two by two, in the following order:—)

FORM OF FUNERAL PROCESSION.

Two Guards with Drawn Swords.

Band (if any).

Sir Knights of Visiting Commanderies.

Officers of Visiting Commanderies.

Sir Knights of the Commandery to which deceased belonged.

Eight Pall-bearers, representing the Languages into which the Order was anciently divided.

Officers of the Commandery of which Deceased was a Member, in the following order:

Warder and Sentinel.

Sword and Standard Bearers.

Senior and Junior Wardens.

Assistant Recorder and Prelate.

Recorder and Treasurer.

Sir Knight Commander and Generalissimo.

Supreme and Grand Officers (if present).

Two Guards with Reversed Swords.

The procession will be under command of the Captain-General, who will march on the left side near the head of the line.

(Note.—In case the Commandery is skilled in the Manual of Drill, it will be marshaled as therein directed, in three divisions, so as to form a triangle at the residence of the deceased, instead of the above.)

(Arriving at the house, the procession will halt at a proper distance, open up and face inward. The two guards in the rear then march through between the lines, followed by the officers and all Sir Knights, so as to invert the order of the procession. The officers, and as many of the companions as can be accommodated, will then enter the house. The Sir Knight Commander will take his place at the head; the Generalissimo at the foot; the Prelate at the right, and the Captain-General at the left of the corpse. The Senior Warden will then

deposit the sword and chapeau of the deceased companion upon the coffin, and the Sir Knight Commander will deliver the following address:—)

Sir Knight Com.—Again are we called upon to perform the last sad rites at the funeral of a deceased Sir Knight. Again we contemplate humanity in its most lowly aspect. Once more are we presented with a response to the inspired interrogatory, "What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?" Before us lies mute evidence of the truth inculcated in our solemn mysteries: "That man fleeth away as a shadow, and where is he? The place that knows him now shall know him again no more forever." For us as members of this Christian Order, the present occasion possesses a peculiar and mournful interest. A messenger whose dread coming neither the arm of friendship can prevent, nor whose dire purpose the wealth of the world can propitiate, has crossed the threshold of our Council Chamber, depriving us of the friendship and sweet communion of a beloved Sir Knight, and has summoned a Christian warrior to his eternal reward. A burning taper of life in our Commandery has been extinguished by the Almighty, and another pilgrim has partaken of the bitter cup which even the Saviour of the world desired might pass from Him. Our departed companion will never again wield the sword

of friendship in aid of the destitute and oppressed, nor with the shield of knightly honor ward off wrong from the afflicted and persecuted ones. To him the good fight is o'er; he has finished his course, and there is henceforth laid up for him, if faithful, the crown of righteousness, which God, the Righteous Judge, shall give him at that day; and not to him only, but unto all them that love His appearing.

In this trying hour, when the darkness of the grave envelopes us in its gloomy fold, and naught of earth is able to confer consolation, let us devoutly turn our attention to the pages of the Divine Word, and from them derive rays of comfort and instruction which will illuminate the pathway to the sepulchre, and render bright and cheerful the dreary precincts of the tomb. Let us be reverently attentive while our Sir Knight Prelate reads to us a lesson from Holy Scripture.

(The Senior Warden will furnish the companions with cards containing the lesson, and all are to join in the responses.)

READING AND RESPONSES.

Prelate.—If a man die shall he live again?

Response.—I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though, after my death, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Prelate.—But some men will say, How are the dead raised up, and with what body do they come?

Response.—It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body; there is a natural body and there is a spiritual body.

Prelate.—We shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruption must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruption shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

Response.—The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law; but thanks be to God which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelate.—If in this life we have no hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Response.—We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Prelate.—The Lord is nigh unto them that

are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Response.—The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants, and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Sir Knight Com.—Shall our Sir Knight Companion be forgotten?

Response.—We will treasure remembrance of him in our hearts; we will inscribe his name on the tablets of our memories.

(The Recorder will here read from the Register, or other records of the Commandery, a statement of the deceased companion's official record, giving his name, rank, date of initiation, what offices he has filled, and such other facts as may be of interest. He will then close the book and say:—)

Recorder.—Thus it is recorded.

Response.—It is well. So let it be.

Sir Knight Com.—He was a true and courteous Knight, and has fallen in life's struggle—fell knightly, with his armor on, prepared for knightly deeds.

Response.—Rest to his ashes, and peace to his soul.

Prelate.—God of the living! into Thy hands we cheerfully and submissively consign the soul of the departed.

Response.—God will have it so.

Prelate.—Let us pray.

PRAYER.

Father of Light! Amid the obscurity at-

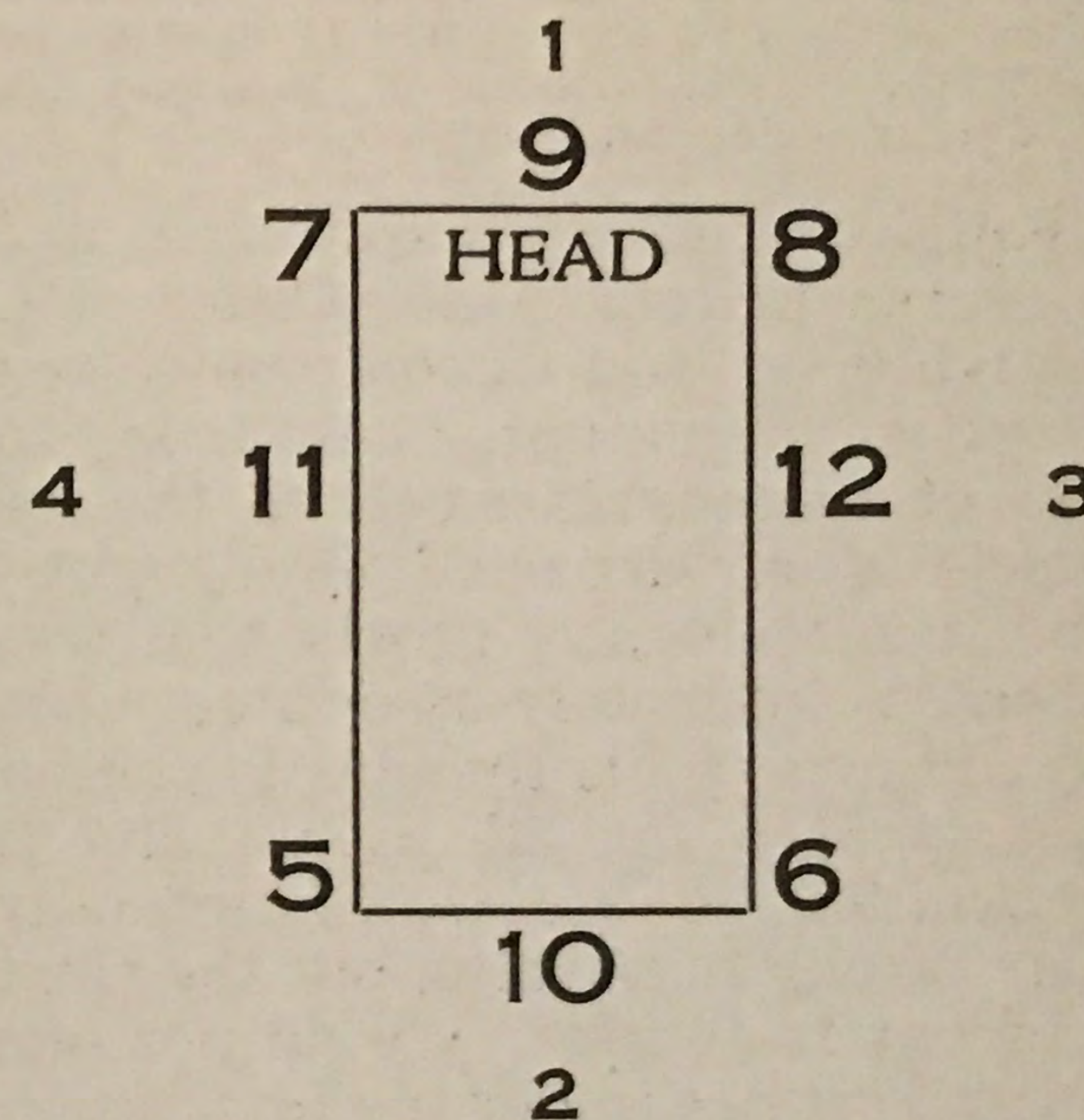
tending this decree of Thy providence we humbly pray that Thou wilt shower spiritual light upon us. Look from out the cloud of this gloomy dispensation and whisper as Thou didst of old: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Reveal the light of Thy countenance in an especial manner, we beseech Thee, to this household clothed in the habiliments of mourning. Pour upon them the oil of joy for mourning, and bestow upon them the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness. (Forget not Thy promise to be a Father to the fatherless, and the widow's God.) By the effects of disease and decay, imprinted everywhere upon Thy handiwork, impress upon our minds a proper sense of the fleeting tenure of life. In our seasons of prosperity be ever with us, sounding in our ears the solemn warning: "Prepare, for in the day thou knowest not the Son of Man cometh." When stricken down under the withering arm of disease and adversity relieve our weary souls of the burden of sin; and in the hour of dissolution forsake us not, O Most Merciful Father, but guide us by Thy presence through the Dark Valley of the Shadow of Death. These, and all other mercies, we beg by and through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(The Sir Knights will now form around the remains and then give the Grand Funeral Honors. The undertaker will then arrange the body for

removal, but if the relatives and friends are to take a last view of the corpse it should be done at this time. The pall-bearers will then carry out the body and the procession will form as before, in front of the hearse. If the pall-bearers are in a carriage, they should ride directly in front of the hearse; if not, they will walk on either side. The mourners and friends will follow directly in the rear of the hearse.)

[Note.—Should it be impossible to give the Grand Funeral Honors at the house of the deceased, they may be given at the grave instead.]

(On arriving at the place of burial, the Sir Knights will halt and open out, as at the house, and the pall-bearers, hearse, and mourners will pass through between the two lines. The Sir Knights will then close in and pass on to the open grave and form a circle around it. The Sir Knight Commander, Generalissimo, Captain-General, Prelate and pall-bearers take position inside the circle, as per diagram on page 39.)



1. Sir Knight Commander.
2. Generalissimo.
3. Captain-General.
4. Prelate.
- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, Pall-bearers.

(The Senior Warden will then remove the sword and chapeau from the coffin, and the pall-bearers will lower it into the grave. After this is done the Captain-General will command:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knight Pall-bearers, Attention! Draw, Swords. Form Cross.

(At this command the eight pall-bearers will cross their swords so as to form a double cross, as per diagram. When all is in position the Sir Knight Commander will say:—)

Sir Knight Com.—In accordance with the time-honored custom of our Order of Christian Knighthood, and in consonance with its teachings, we are gathered here today for the purpose of bidding farewell to the earthly tabernacle of our departed Sir Knight Companion. It is eminently proper that we, who have been so intimately associated with him, should accompany his remains to the narrow house appointed for all living; and by so doing manifest to the world not only the sincerity of our friendship, but the Christian spirit of our fraternity. We do not offer up this solemn service under the impression that it will avail the soul of the departed at the throne of the Universal Judge, for as the tree falls so shall it lie; but we do this that our thoughts may be directed away from the concerns of life to the contemplation of that eternity to which we are all hastening. Nature and revelation both point to the tomb as the universal allotment of mankind. The Inspired Word teaches us that as we have been moulded out of the dust of the ground by the fiat of an Omnipotent God, so, likewise, according to the Divine Will, shall we be resolved—sooner or later—into the original elements out of which we were taken.

The present is another mournful example of the force of these oft-reiterated truths. Our companion, once so vigorous in the pursuits of earthly enjoyments, now lies helpless in the merciless arms of the King of Terrors. And he, with whom we have been accustomed to practice the secret rites of our Order, has now partaken of a mystery only communicated to those who have passed through the portals of the unseen world. It should be our duty, while we drop a tear of affection on the grave of the departed, to extenuate his conduct wherein he may have erred; to bestow a generous degree of praise upon his excellencies of character; to be instructed by his shortcomings, and to emulate his virtues.

Here, far away from the busy scenes of human activity, we consign his remains to their parent dust. The tread of martial hosts will not disturb him; the conflict of armed warriors will not wake him; the bugle of earth's chivalry will not cause him to rise. In this quiet spot he will peacefully repose until the resurrection morn, under the sainted benediction: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea saith the Spirit, for they shall rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

May the present example of our mortality incite us to make the necessary preparations

for eternity, so that when it shall please Almighty God to call us hence we may be prepared to meet Him. May we not halt between two opinions in the matter of our eternal welfare, but choose that better part which not even death with its gloomy horrors will be able to deprive us of in the lonely hour of dissolution. Thus during our earthly pilgrimage, having fought the good fight of faith, we will lay hold on eternal life, and having come off victoriously over principalities and powers, we will enter triumphantly into the celestial city; there with the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, the Church triumphant, and Christ our Elder Brother, to live and reign, world without end.

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knight Pall-bearers. Carry, Swords. Form Arch of Steel.

(Pall-bearers Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12 will now bring their swords to the "carry," No. 11 will move to the head of the grave, and No. 12 to the foot, where they form an arch of steel, with Nos. 9 and 10 respectively. Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 still hold first position of cross over grave. The Senior Warden will then hand an apron to the Sir Knight Commander, who will stand under the arch of steel, and say:—)

Sir Knight Com.—This apron, which I now deposit in the grave of our departed companion, symbolizes the purity that should characterize our lives, the immutable certainty of death, and the ever-living hope that as we have worn the cross in life so shall we

inherit the crown at death.

(The Sir Knight Commander then takes a sprig of evergreen, and holding it in his hand will say:—)

Sir Knight Com.—This evergreen is the fitting emblem of immortality. By it we typify the imperishability of our nature and the perpetuity of our friendship. We deposit this token in the grave of the departed to signify that our love for him reaches beyond the confines of the tomb; and that although we mournfully consign his body to the ground, we do so in the anticipation of a glorious resurrection.

(The Sir Knight Commander will then drop his sprig of evergreen into the grave upon the coffin, and all companions will move around the grave, each depositing a sprig of evergreen upon the coffin. After this has been done, the Captain-General will command:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Draw, Swords. Present, Swords.

(At the order "Carry, Swords," the pall-bearers will also bring their swords to the "carry," and then to the "present" with the others. At the instant the companions come to the "present" the Warden will sound the salute, and each companion will salute by lowering the point of his sword to within six inches of the ground, and returning it to the "present." Care should be taken that this movement be made promptly and simultaneously. As soon as the Warden finishes the salute the Captain-General will command:—)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Return, Swords. Uncover.

(This command will be obeyed by all companions, pall-bearers included. The Prelate will then offer up the following prayer:—)

Prelate.—Let us pray.

PRAYER.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we beseech Thee so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Grant that we, having the fear of death continually before our eyes, may prepare for it by righteousness of life; and that finally, having passed through the novitiate of our earthly existence, we may be admitted into Thy asylum of eternal rest. Through the mediation of our only Advocate and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Response.—Amen.

Prelate.—O Thou who hast promised to be a Father to the fatherless, and the widow's God, we humbly pray Thee, at this time, to mercifully regard the family and friends of our departed companion. Be Thou a friend and comforter to them in this season of their sorrow. Assuage their grief. Pour the balm of Thy Spirit into their wounded hearts, and grant that this temporal affliction may be productive for them of an abiding interest in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. All of which we beg through the mediation of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Response.—Amen.

Prelate.—Almighty and ever-living God, who hast promised to be with the company of the elect faithful even unto the end of the world, most devoutly we implore Thee, to bless this Christian Order with renewed evidence of Thy Divine approbation. Shower upon its officers and members the healthful spirit of Thy grace. Increase their devotedness to Thee and to Thy holy religion. Maintain it ever in the bonds of Christian unity, and vouchsafe that it may continue an honored instrument in Thy hands of great good, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response.—Amen.

Prelate.—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

(The Commandery will then be reformed into line, return to the Council Chamber, and closed in due and regular form.)

SERVICE
FOR
MEMORIAL DAY
SEPTEMBER 12

OFFICERS.

Sir Knight Commander, Generalissimo, Captain-General, Prelate, Recorder, Warder (or Bugler) and Senior Warden.

The officers take their stations as in a Subordinate Commandery. The Council Chamber is arranged as follows. The Bible altar is in the center of the hall, with the open Bible upon it. A white dove is suspended over the altar. A small altar is placed between the Bible altar and the station of the Commander. Upon the small altar are burning candles corresponding to the number of companions in the Commandery or district who have died within the year. The pedestals are draped in white cloth. Flowers should be used in decorating the altars and pedestals.

The service is open to the public.

In addition to the officers designated there should be chosen twelve companions who are well drilled and in uniform, they to form the guard of honor. The choir should chant

some of the selections. Vacant chairs should be placed side by side in front of the Commander's station corresponding to the number of deceased companions, each chair containing a shield bearing the name of a companion, his rank, age, and date of death.

THE SERVICE.

Opening Sentence—Music.

(The Commander calls the Commandery to order and says:—)

"Generalissimo, what is the cause of our assembling together this evening?"

Generalissimo.—We have met to commemorate those of our companions who have passed to that celestial city, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Commander.—Prelate, you will read for our instruction the Twenty-third Psalm. (Prelate stands at the altar and reads the Psalm.)

CHANT, "De Profundus."

Commander.—In loving remembrance of our dead companions who have passed from the busy scenes of this life to their eternal rest, I now declare this Commandery of Sorrow opened. Recorder, you will now call the roll of our deceased companions.

(As the roll is called the Bugler responds in the ante-room to each name. After each blast of the bugle the Commander takes a candle from the

altar, and, holding it up before him, says, "We mourn thee," and then extinguishes it.)

HYMN, "Asleep in Jesus."

Commander.—Captain-General, you will attend to the duties of your office.

(At this command the Captain-General retires with the Guard of Honor and the Senior Warden to the ante-room, where they form in single file, swords reversed, the Senior Warden in the middle bearing an urn containing ashes, and march into the Council Chamber. As they enter the door the order is given by the Captain-General to the companions in the Council Chamber to "Draw, Swords! Carry, Swords! Present, Swords!" They march around the Council Chamber three times. During the march the organist plays a funeral march. If martial music be used, the musicians will play the Dead March in Saul. As they pass around the third time, they halt in front of the Generalissimo's station.)

Generalissimo (addressing the Senior Warden).—Where are you from?

Senior Warden.—We come from the city of the dead.

Generalissimo.—What is that in your hand?

Senior Warden.—An urn.

Generalissimo.—What does it contain?

Senior Warden.—Ashes.

Generalissimo.—What do they represent?

Senior Warden.—The ashes of our deceased companions.

The twelve companions say: "In memory of our deceased companions."

(The Captain-General then forms the procession around the altar in a circle and gives the order to "Carry, Swords! Return, Swords!")

Senior Warden.—Sir Knight Commander, I present you what represents the remains of our companions (handing him the urn, which the Commander places on the altar with the candles) who have passed from earth to their eternal reward.

Commander.—Companions, assist me in conferring the grand funeral honors upon all that remains of our deceased companions. (Funeral honors are then given.)

Sir Knight Com.—Captain-General, you will reform the procession and return the urn and its contents, which represent the ashes of our deceased companions, to their final resting-place, in the hope of a glorious resurrection when the morning breaks and the shadows flee away.

(While the companions are singing the hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," the procession is reformed and marches around the Council Chamber three times, and retire. The urn is left in the ante-room and the guard returns and take seats in the Council Chamber. An address will now be made by some member of the Order.)

HYMN, "Rock of Ages."

(The Commander then relights the candles upon the altar and says:—)

Companions, the lights which you see burning upon the altar represent the number of our companions of this Commandery (or

district) who have died during the past year. At the beginning of this service these lights were put out to remind us that a burning taper (or burning tapers) of life had been extinguished in our Commandery; that a light (or—lights) had gone out from amongst the members of this illustrious Order, to be rekindled in that celestial asylum of saints and angels, the final resting-place of all valiant Christian Knights who have gone before him (or them). The white dove suspended above the altar is a type of innocence, purity, and love, and will serve to remind us of our duty as Knights of Malta—to be pure in our language, innocent of evil intent, and full of brotherly affection one for another. We will now proceed to close this Memorial Service. Prelate, you will read for our instruction the Ninetieth Psalm.

CHANT, "Gloria in Excelsis."

Commander.—Companions, form around the altar and join hands.

HYMN CHANT, "Thy will be done," and "Gloria Patri."

BENEDICTION.

DEDICATION EXERCISES

(Note.—All being in readiness, the Supreme (or Grand) Herald enters and advances to the altar, draws his sword, and, saluting the Sir Knight Commander, announces the Supreme (or Grand) Commander and Staff who, at his last word, enter the hall and proceed to the altar. The Supreme (or Grand) Herald steps to the right and salutes the Supreme (or Grand) Officers as they enter.)

Supreme } Herald.—Sir Knight Commander, the Supreme (or Grand) Commander and Staff.

* * *

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Draw, Swords. Present, Swords.

Sir Knight Com.—Supreme (or Grand) Commander and Staff: In behalf of Commandery, No., I bid you a hearty and chivalric welcome, and it is my request that you present yourself at this station and take charge of the Dedicatory Ceremonies.

(Note.—The Supreme (or Grand) Commander and Staff then approach the Sir Knight Commander's station and assume their proper positions, and remain standing.)

Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, Attention! Carry, Swords.

**Supreme }
Grand } Commander. — Sir Knight**
Prelate, you will lead in prayer.

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, un-**
cover. To your devotions.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—Almighty God: Thou**
who didst lead the Israelites through the
Wilderness, who caused the waters to divide
that Thy chosen people might pass through
as on dry ground, do Thou, we pray Thee, be
present amongst us to bless and direct in the
dedicatory services of this Temple of Chris-
tian Knighthood. Keep us in the straight and
narrow path that leadeth to Eternal Life.
May it be ours to meet with Thee in Thy
Temple above when Christian Knights meet
to part no more and be under Thy guidance,
O Lord, as our Supreme Commander. May
we be received into the family of saints and
angels, there to display our banner of Truth
and Love—"In hoc signo vinces"—forever to
dwell with Thee and with Christ, our Elder
Brother, at Thy right hand. Amen, Amen,
Amen.

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, At-**
tention! Return, Swords.

ODE. L. M.

Enter Thy temple, glorious King!
And write Thy name upon its shrine,
Thy peace to shed, Thy joy to bring,
And seal its courts forever Thine.
Grant us to walk in peace and love,
And find, at last, some humble place
In that great temple built above,
Where dwell Thy saints before Thy face.

**Supreme }
Grand } Herald.—Supreme (or Grand)**
Commander: Is it your will and pleasure that
the ceremony of dedicating this Temple to
the business and purposes of Malta do now
proceed?

**Supreme }
Grand } Commander. — Sir Knight**
Supreme (or Grand) Herald: Such is my will
and pleasure.

**Supreme }
Grand } Herald. — Sir Knight Com-**
mander: It is the command of the Supreme
(or Grand) Commander that the dedication
services do now proceed.

Sir Knight Com.—Sir Knight Supreme (or
Grand) Commander: We greet you here to-
night to announce that the work in which we
have been engaged is finished and our
Temple is at last ready to shelter us within
its walls. It is not the business of our Com-
mittee at this time to allude to their own
labors nor to the manner in which those
labors have been performed: nor would good

taste permit them to descant on the fitness of our Temple for the sacred purposes to which it is designed. It is capable of speaking for itself through its proportions and appointments. I have only to repeat that our work of constructing and furnishing is finished, and in behalf of
 Commandery, No., I request that this Temple be set apart and dedicated to the business and purposes of Malta.

**Supreme }
 Grand } Commander.** — Sir Knight Commander: In the name and on behalf of the Ancient and Illustrious Order Knights of Malta, I accept for dedication this Temple which has been furnished under the supervision of your faithful committee.

To you and your associates the present must be an occasion especially gratifying. To-night you witness the consummation of that for which you have ardently toiled and hoped. To-night you hail the completion of that for which you have zealously and faithfully labored. To-night you behold the recognition by your companions from the East, the West, the North and the South, of this, the result of your efforts: a Temple for those whose vocation is to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and to educate the orphan: a Temple dedicated to God and the Protestant Faith. Whose pre-

cincts are holy: whose walls should enclose nothing but purity and peace. "Take thy shoes off thy feet for the place whereon thou standest is Holy Ground."

Sir Knights, I congratulate you upon the completion of this beautiful Temple which we are about to dedicate to those cardinal virtues which should adorn and elevate humanity. Beneath this roof you are to hold your convocations—to deliberate—to encourage each other in the practice of our grand and noble principles. I hope, my dear companions, that our united effort, with those of our Sir Knights throughout the globe, may lead to the raising and adorning of a still nobler Temple of the soul of all of us, consecrated by the approval of the Supreme Commander of the Universe, without the invocation of whose blessing no work should be undertaken. Sir Knight Grand Prelate, you will invoke that blessing.

* * *

**Supreme }
 Grand } Capt.-Gen.—Sir Knights, uncover.**

**Supreme }
 Grand } Prelate.—Almighty God, the Maker of all the world, whom we are taught to approach and call by the tender name of Father: we would humbly draw near and beg Thy blessing on the work in which we**

are engaged. Whatever is amiss in us do Thou make right by Thy Divine power: and in all things do Thou over-rule our thoughts and deeds to Thy greater glory and the good of our fellow-men. Amen.

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen.—**Sir Knights, recover.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—**I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

Response.—Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—**Jerusalem is build-
ed as a city that is compact together, a unity in itself.

Response.—Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—**For there are set
thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Response.—Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—**Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces.

Response.—For my brethren and companions' sake I will now say, Peace be within thee.

**Supreme }
Grand } Prelate.—**Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

Response.—So be it.

ODE, "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

**Supreme }
Grand } Capt.-Gen. —** Sir Knights!
Draw, Swords. Present, Swords.

**Supreme }
Grand } Commander. —** Hear! Hear!
Hear! all men! By authority and in the name of the Supreme (or Grand) Commandery of the Ancient and Illustrious Order Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, I do dedicate this Temple to the business and purposes of Christian Knighthood, and by this solemn act do declare it duly dedicated. Grand Herald, you will proclaim this to all present.

**Supreme }
Grand } Herald.—**Hear ye, all men!
By the solemn act of the Supreme (or Grand) Commander of this Temple is duly dedicated to the business and purposes of Malta, and it is his will and pleasure that

**Supreme }
Grand }** **Generalissimo.** — Hear, all the same be proclaimed.
men! By command of the Grand Commander I proclaim this Temple duly dedicated to Christian Knighthood (scattering wheat or rice), and may the good seed here sown spring up again an hundredfold for future use and blessing, and may those ennobling virtues, Faith, Hope and Truth, which lie at the foundation of all other virtues and which are devoid of guile and hypocrisy, teach us sincerity and plain dealing in all our deliberations and earnestness in the inculcation of whatever is good and true.

**Supreme }
Grand }** **Prelate.**—He that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart, O Lord, shall abide in Thy Tabernacle and shall dwell in Thy Holy Hill.

**Supreme }
Grand }** **Capt.-Gen.** — Sir Knights! Attention! Return, Swords.

*

**Supreme }
Grand }** **Commander.** — Sir Knights and Friends: I trust that the solemn ceremonies of this occasion may not be lost upon our hearts. In setting apart this Temple for its noble purposes we have renewed our

vows to practice conscientiously the lessons of our beloved Order. Let us never forget the imperative commands of our laws: To visit the sick, to relieve the distressed and to bury the dead. Let us not forget, moreover, that besides these good works of charity Malta has high and important lessons to inculcate—lessons that if attentively listened to and practiced by all would elevate the character of man and hasten the coming of the promised day of universal peace and love. Sir Knights of Commandery, we now deliver into your hands this beautiful Temple you have devoted to our Order.

Joy be within thy walls,
And peace a constant guest.

(Doxology to be sung).

**Supreme }
Grand }** **Prelate.**—Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, I command you and the whole family of mankind. To Him, the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forever. Amen.

GRACE

[To be said before all Banquets given by Commanderies of the Order of Malta. Adopted by the Supreme Grand Commandery, Brooklyn, 1896.]

O, Lord God Almighty! Bless us, and all regular Knights of Malta round the globe. Make us to exalt our Order, and to preach its principles. Make us ever the foes of error, superstition and idolatry. Give us Wisdom in all our undertakings; Strength to accomplish our purpose; and the Beauty of Holiness in all our works. And may the grace of the Holy Trinity be and abide with us evermore. Amen.



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